

## Alice Weiss

### The Skinny

a love poem

For us, it's the bed clothes:  
you in plaid PJs,  
a gift from your daughter,  
and me in the Hard Rock Café T shirt  
I stole from one of my mine.  
We use the Lands End cover  
from your old double bed  
and the flour bag quilt  
you found when you moved  
into your house  
on Coliseum Street  
during the nine years  
it took us to get married.

I slide among the covers  
like a small animal  
nosing under the quilts and sheets  
to curl against you after  
I thought it'd been much too long.  
You reach back to me.  
I pull off my T shirt  
and toss it over the side.

Later I go downstairs to make coffee  
and I think of you last night  
in gym class where you did seven squats  
one after the other  
with such concentration and grace  
I stopped mine to watch.  
In the car afterwards, on the way  
to town meeting, I said,  
"You were beautiful tonight."  
You said, "Beautiful, hah,  
I'm a skinny scrawny guy."  
"Yeah," I said, "That too."

**Alice Weiss** is a poet emerging from over twenty years as a civil rights attorney in Louisiana, and thirteen years rustivating on Cape Cod now moved to Cambridge. She received her MFA in poetry at New England College in 2010. Her work has appeared in *Jewish Currents*, the *Somerville News*, and

she has been featured at the Provincetown Poetry Festival, Cape Cod Cultural Center, and recently at Calliope in Falmouth. She also remains the official Poet in Residence at Am HaYam, the Cape Cod Chavurah, even though she no longer lives there.